



U.S. Department of Energy  
Federal Energy Technology Center

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- ☐ fossil energy
- ☒ environmental
- ☐ energy efficiency
- ☐ other

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### States Impacted:

Ohio, West Virginia (And other States with nuclear reactors and associated facilities)

### Benefit Areas:

Technology Leadership, Effective InterAgency Teaming; Expansion of FETC's Business Base; Decommissioning of nuclear reactors and associated facilities

### Participants:

US DOE/FETC (and subcontractors), NASA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (and subcontractors)

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## FETC/ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PARTNERSHIP BEARING FRUIT – DEVELOPING THE DECOMMISSIONING PLAN FOR NASA'S PLUM BROOK REACTOR FACILITY

### Description

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has entered into a partnership with the Federal Energy Technology Center (FETC), which is the Department of Energy's (DOE) lead agency for decommissioning technology for the Nation's nuclear weapons complex. FETC has directly participated in seven major Departmental decommissioning projects through the demonstration of more than 60 innovative or improved D&D (decontamination and decommissioning) technologies. FETC's main goal is to "shoulder" the risk associated with implementing new technologies thus facilitating the widespread deployment of the most efficient and cost-effective D&D methods. FETC's Deactivation and Decommissioning Focus Area also maintains DOE's largest repository of D&D technologies.

The Corps submitted a proposal, along with FETC and other private teaming partners, to develop the Decommissioning Plan (DP) for the NASA Plum Brook Reactor Facility (PBRF). The proposal drew upon the skills and experience of FETC, the Corps, and their contractor team members (Science Applications International Corporation and RIO Technical Services, Inc.) The Decommissioning Plan, when completed, published, and approved by the NRC, may serve as a benchmark for research reactor decommissioning throughout the Nation.

### Goals

Develop a quality Decommissioning Plan (DP), within the time line established, that has a high confidence level for decommissioning cost projections and a high likelihood of expeditious approval by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Accomplishing this goal may lead to the FETC/Corps team being tasked with the actual decommissioning of the PBRF.

### Tangible Benefits

**National:** The Plum Brook Reactor Facility is typical of many test/research reactors throughout the Nation. Based on the success of the development and approval of the Decommissioning Plan, the Plan may serve as a benchmark for Research Reactor decommissioning. This could minimize the cost of future Research Reactor decommissioning.

**Regional and Local:** The decommissioning of the Plum Brook Reactor Facility will reduce the potential for unintended releases from the facility during its storage period. And, following decommissioning, the site has the potential for re-use, such as for re-industrialization, etc.